

In Brief

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Makalapa Gate closure

Makalapa Gate will be closed Nov. 17, for road resurfacing efforts from 8 p.m. Friday evening, until 5 p.m. Sunday.

Pedestrian access between Kamehameha Highway and North Road will be allowed at Makalapa Gate during the road resurfacing with the following exceptions: Nov. 17, 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. and Nov. 18, 6 a.m. - 11 a.m. Base Police will continue ID checks for pedestrians entering Navy property.

The NEX Bus system will operate at its normal stops and times using the Halawa Gate instead of the Makalapa Gate.

CPO BEQ residents will have vehicular and pedestrian access to North Road via the open gate between the BEQ and Bldg. 229. The Medical Clinic, American Red Cross and Navy Relief organization can be accessed from North Road via the parking lot of Bldg. 1535 (NEPMU 6).

To provide additional access to Naval Base Pearl Harbor, the Halawa Gate will be open (24 hours) from 5 p.m., Nov. 17 until work is completed at Makalapa Gate.

For additional information, call Mr. Walter Carvalho at 471-0070 ext. 238. access to the Internet at home or at work should contact their unit's Command Master Chief (CMC) to make arrangements for access to the survey.

Thrift Shop hours extended

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Thrift Shop hours have been extended. The Thrift Shop will be open on Wednesdays until the end of the year.

The NMCRS Thrift Shop is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - noon. The NMCRS Thrift Shop is located on the perimeter of Quick Filed in Building 285.

The Thrift Shop will be closed Dec. 24 to Jan. 2, 2001. For more information, call the Thrift Shop at 422-4691 or the NMCRS Pearl Harbor Office at 423-1314.

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Ohana 2000 update: Medical, Dental address issues



JOC(SW/AW) Doug Holl photo

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, visited Hawaii Oct. 30-Nov. 1 for the annual Asia-Pacific Chiefs of Defense conference. During his visit, Shelton addressed a broad variety of issues in a roundtable interview, with reporters from each of the local military newspapers.

General Shelton addresses issues that affect Sailors at home, abroad

By JOSN Tim Walsh
NAVY REGION HAWAII

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, addressed a broad variety of issues in a roundtable interview, with reporters from each of the local military newspapers, during a recent visit to Hawaii. Shelton, who was on Oahu Oct. 30-Nov. 1 for the annual Asia-Pacific Chiefs of Defense Conference, talked to reporters about issues that impact servicemembers and their families in Hawaii and throughout the world. He covered topics ranging from Quality of Life (QOL) to the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).

Of the variety of issues that Shelton discussed, the protection of servicemembers throughout the world and throughout the fleet remained a top priority. Shelton expressed deep regret for the loss aboard the USS Cole (DDG 67), but he highlighted an improved force protection. According to Shelton, over the past four years the military has "raised the bar" on protective standards, but he admits that incidents, like the

one involving Cole, occur in the "environment of risk" that servicemembers work within.

"The bottom line is you'll never be 100-percent safe in our business, not as long as we are out in the world carrying out the missions we are assigned," said Shelton.

Citing current facts and figures, the general pointed out that in the Pacific, the Navy conducts about 400 port visits to about 100 different ports each year and that each of those ports is under review.

After those reviews are completed, appropriate protection measures will be made to ensure the safety of Navy ships and Sailors. But the reviews don't stop in the ports. Shelton cited that wherever a United States plane touches down, a ship pulls into port, or servicemembers or their family reside, their protection is the number one priority.

"Ultimately, the terrorist is going to look for the weak link, the lowest common denominator, wherever he thinks he can get to you and whenever you shore up one area, he starts looking for another," said Shelton. "It's something we must continually assess and adjust appropriately, but there will always be risks."

In the area of "future readiness," Shelton stressed the importance of modernization.

"We have a major challenge in making sure we fund the armed forces with the money needed to modernize," the general said. "There have been a number of esti-

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Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor

By JOC Gerard Sekerak
HAWAII NAVY NEWS EDITOR

The Ohana 2000 survey and resulting conference held earlier this year highlighted the region's quality of life (QOL) priorities and recommended improvements. As a result of Ohana 2000, Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor narrowed the focus on its primary areas in need of improvement.

During the Ohana 2000 conference, program managers presented the top three issues regarding medical services.

#1 - Access:

Issue - Medical clinic patrons were concerned with a reduced access to care due to the impending closure of Branch Medical Clinic (BMC) Barbers Point and the tedious requirement to always be referred by a primary care manager for follow-on care.

Response - Due to popular demand, BMC Barbers Point remained open to support

customers in the West Oahu area. The clinic also offers self-care classes to all beneficiaries. Following the class, attendees receive a helpful booklet on what treatment requires immediate care, what can wait until an appointment, and what can be done at home, as well as access to certain medications at any military pharmacy on the island, without a prescription.

#2 - Appointments:

Issue - The automated phone system was deemed unreliable, slow and unresponsive to system surges in demand. Also, patrons complained of long check-in and waiting times at appointments and the reduction in clinic operating hours at Makalapa and Kaneohe Bay clinics.

Response - Appointment types have been analyzed and adjusted to better meet customers needs. Routine appointments are now available

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Naval Dental Clinic Pearl Harbor

By JOC Gerard Sekerak
HAWAII NAVY NEWS EDITOR

Few program areas received little negative criticism from the Ohana 2000 survey, but Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor (NDCPH) was one of those areas.

Issue(s): As a result of the Ohana 2000 survey, NDCPH active duty customers felt the need for greater availability to appointments and enhanced communications between the dental clinic and its customers.

Recommendation(s): According to Capt. Robert E. Hutto, Commanding Officer, NDCPH, the clinic is and has been meeting, and in some cases, exceeding the needs of its customers.

"NDCPH beneficiaries currently enjoy the highest access to dental care of any of the Navy's 15 commands," said Hutto. "We pride ourselves in our ability

to provide up-to-date, comprehensive dental service to thousands of patients in the Pear Harbor catchment area in a compassionate and yet highly efficient environment."

In May, NDCPH was recognized for reaching an unprecedented goal in Naval dental history. The clinic maintained 100 percent operational dental readiness for 50 consecutive deploying ships. Since then, the clinic has stretched its lead to 57 consecutive deployed ships - and counting. The clinic also boasts an operational dental readiness (ODR) of 95.8 percent for all the commands it serves.

The clinic also claims stake to a "Class I" dental health improvement (DHI) score of 53.4 percent - the highest in the Navy. In addition, more than 90 percent of it's patrons receive an exam and cleaning at the same appointment.

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President signs Authorization Act, includes pay raise

By Jim Garamore
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS FORCES

A 3.7 percent military pay raise, T R I C A R E changes, military modernization and lifetime medical benefits are just some of the aspects of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 that President Clinton signed into law Oct. 30.

The act gives DoD permission to spend an authorized overall budget of \$309.9 billion. The fiscal 2001 appropriations act signed in August actually provided the money.

The authorization act set total military fiscal 2001 end strength at 1,382,242. The Army's end strength is 480,000; the Navy's, 372,642; Air Force's, 357,000; and the Marines', 172,600. The Selected Reserve end strength is 874,664 with the

Army National Guard's at 350,526, the Army Reserve's 205,300 and the Naval Reserve's at 88,900. The Marine Corps Reserve will have 39,558 members, the Air National Guard is set at 108,022; the Air Force Reserve at 74,358; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 8,000.

Service members did particularly well in quality of life expenditures. In addition to the 3.7 percent across-the-board pay raise that goes into effect Jan. 1, 2001, service members in pay grades E-5 to E-7 will receive a targeted, one-time monthly raise of \$32 to \$59 starting July 1, 2001.

Congress has added funds to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to reduce out-of-pocket expenses service members must pay if they live off base. Currently, service members living off base, pay an average of 19 percent of their housing costs out-of-pocket. The money will bring

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ROK Navy pulls into Pearl Harbor



PH2 Chad McNeeley photo

Three Republic of Korea (ROK) navy ships pulled into Pearl Harbor Nov. 1 for a four-day visit. USS Hopper (DDG 70) hosted the destroyer ROKS Kwanggaeto The Great (DDG 971), oiler ROKS Tae Chung (AO 58), and the frigate ROKS Chung Ju (FFG 961), pictured above, while they were in port.